

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing device connected to and in communication with a terminal device, comprising:

5 a storing unit having a storage area for storing image data;

a recognition setting unit that enables the terminal device to recognize the storage area in the storing unit as an external storage device; and

10 a data processing unit that reads image data from the storage area in the storing unit when image data is written to the storage area from the terminal device and executes a prescribed process on the image data.

2. The data processing device was claimed in claim 1, wherein the terminal device is provided with a Plug and Play function for automatically recognizing a device connected to and in communication with the terminal device, the recognition setting unit using the Plug and Play function to enable the terminal device to recognize the storage area in the storing unit as an external storage device.

20 3. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data processing unit comprises a monitoring portion that constantly monitors the storage area in the storing unit to determine whether image data has been written to the storage area from the terminal device.

25 4. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1,

further comprising a deleting unit that deletes image data from the storage area after the data processing unit has completed a predetermined process on the image data in the prescribed process.

5 5. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prescribed process is image forming process, and
the data processing device further comprising an image forming unit that forms an image on an image forming medium based on the image data; and

10 wherein the data processing unit comprises a reading portion that reads image data from the storage area in the storing unit when image data is written to the storage area from the terminal device, and a control portion that controls the image forming unit to form an image based on the image data.

15 6. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prescribed process is a facsimile transmission process, in which the image data is affixed with a destination data indicative of a destination of the image data; and

20 the data processing device further comprising a communicating unit connected to an external network, and a data transmitting unit that transmits the image data to a specified destination through the communicating unit;

25 wherein the data processing unit comprises a reading portion that reads image data from the storage area in the storing unit and reads the destination data from the storage

area when the image data is written to the storage area from the terminal device, and a control portion that controls the data transmitting unit to transmit the image data to the destination based on the destination data.

5 7. The data processing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the communicating unit is capable of communicating with an external facsimile machine via the network, the control portion controlling the data transmitting unit to transmit the image data as facsimile data to the external facsimile machine
10 at the destination based on the destination data.

8. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the storing unit is capable of storing image data and classification data representing a classification of the image data; and

15 wherein the data processing unit comprises:

 a first mode processing portion providing a first prescribed process;

 a second mode processing portion providing a second prescribed process; and

20 a selection portion selecting one of the first prescribed process and the second prescribed process based on the classification data for the image data that is written together with the image data in the storing unit at the time the image data is written to the storage area from the terminal device
25 for executing a selected one of the first prescribed process

and the second prescribed process.

9. The data processing device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising an image forming unit that forms an image on an image forming medium based on the image data; and

5 wherein the first mode processing portion comprises
 a reading section that reads the image data from the storage area of the storing unit; and
 a control section that controls the image forming unit to form images based on the image data.

10 10. The data processing device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

 a communicating unit connected to an external network;
and

15 a data transmitting unit that transmits the image data to a specified destination via the communicating unit; and

 wherein the image data is attached with a destination data representing a destination for the image data, the destination data being also stored in the storage area; and

20 wherein the second mode processing portion comprises
 a reading section that reads image data from the storage area of the storing unit and reads the destination data from the storage area; and

25 a control section that controls the data transmitting unit to transmit the image data to the destination based on the destination data.

11. The data processing device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the image data is also attached with a transmission
time data representing the transmission time for the image data,
the transmission time data being also stored in the storage
5 area; and

wherein the reading section also reads transmission time
data; and

wherein the control section controls the data
transmitting unit to transmit the image data to a destination
10 based on the destination data at a time represented by the
transmission time data.

12. The data processing device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the communicating unit is capable of communicating with
an external facsimile machine via the network; and

15 wherein the control section controls the data
transmitting unit to transmit the image data as facsimile data
to the external facsimile machine at the destination based on
the destination data.

13. The data processing device as claimed in claim 8,
20 wherein the data processing unit further comprises a third mode
processing portion providing a third prescribed process, the
selection portion selecting one of the first prescribed process,
the second prescribed process and the third prescribed process
based on the classification data for the image data that is
25 written together with the image data in the storing unit at the

time the image data is written to the storage area from the terminal device for executing a selected one of the first prescribed process, the second prescribed process and the third prescribed process.

5 14. The data processing device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising

 a communicating unit connected to an external network;
and

 a mail transmitting unit that transmits image data in an
10 e-mail format to a specified destination; and

 wherein the image data is attached with a destination data representing a destination for the image data, the destination data being also stored in the storage area; and

 wherein the third mode processing portion comprises:

15 a reading section that reads image data from the storage area in the storing unit and reads destination data from the storage area, and

 a control section that controls the mail transmitting unit to transmit the image data in the e-mail format to a
20 destination based on the destination data.

 15. A facsimile machine comprising:

 a communicating unit connected to an external network and capable of transmitting and receiving facsimile data; and

 a data processing device connected to and in
25 communication with a terminal device through the external

network, comprising:

a storing unit having a storage area for storing the facsimile data;

5 a recognition setting unit that enables the terminal device to recognize the storage area in the storing unit as an external storage device; and

a data processing unit that reads the facsimile data from the storage area in the storing unit when the facsimile data is written to the storage area from the terminal device and
10 executes a prescribed process on the facsimile data.

16. A storage medium that stores a program for permitting a facsimile machine to function as a data processing device, the facsimile machine including a communication unit connected to a terminal device through a network, and a storage unit
15 including a storage area that stores therein image data; the program comprising:

a program of enabling the terminal device to recognize the storage area in the storing unit as an external storage device; and

20 a program of reading image data from the storage area in the storing unit when image data is written to the storage area from the terminal device and executing a prescribed process on the image data.